

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Wichita has coordinated with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to engage in comprehensive revitalization strategies that seek to create partnerships among the federal and local governments; the private sector; community organizations; and neighborhood residents. In 1998, the City of Wichita adopted its first Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and designated a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area. In 2004, the Plan was updated and a new Strategy Area was designated. The City's objective is to create communities of opportunity in the Strategy Area by stimulating the reinvestment of human and economic capital, and economically empowering low-income residents.

Over the past several decades, Wichita has experienced periods of economic growth and major setbacks. Currently, Wichita's economy is recovering and performing with slow-steady growth in productivity and employment. The core area and selected residential areas have shared some of this past growth, but the majority of growth has occurred in suburban locations resulting in lower growth in property values and higher concentrations of dilapidated structures in the core area. Urban planners refer to this as the "rotten donut" effect. However, the ongoing downtown construction of residential units and the downtown Sedgwick County Arena are indicators of positive growth for the core area.

The City of Wichita Neighborhood Revitalization Plan coordinates the provision of multi-year public funding and incentives used to enhance, improve, and revitalize targeted distressed areas. The City's leadership and financial resources are key elements of the Plan. This Plan describes the factual underpinnings and financial resources necessary for the adoption of the Plan by HUD and the State of Kansas.

The City of Wichita Neighborhood Revitalization Plan includes the HUD Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy for the City of Wichita, described in HUD Notice 96-01. The Plan includes the neighborhood revitalization area boundaries, demographic criteria, descriptions of the public consultation efforts, assessments of the target areas, strategies to improve the target areas, and performance measurements. It also includes activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant program and HOME Investment Partnership Program, which are described in the HUD Consolidated Plan. Program incentives for housing and economic development are included in the Plan.

The City of Wichita Neighborhood Revitalization Plan meets the State of Kansas requirements necessary to establish the Kansas Rebate Program for the City of Wichita (K.S.A. 12-17,114 et seq.). The Kansas Tax Rebate Program procedures, programming, and eligibility for the City of Wichita are described in the Plan.